

Supreme Court LIVE

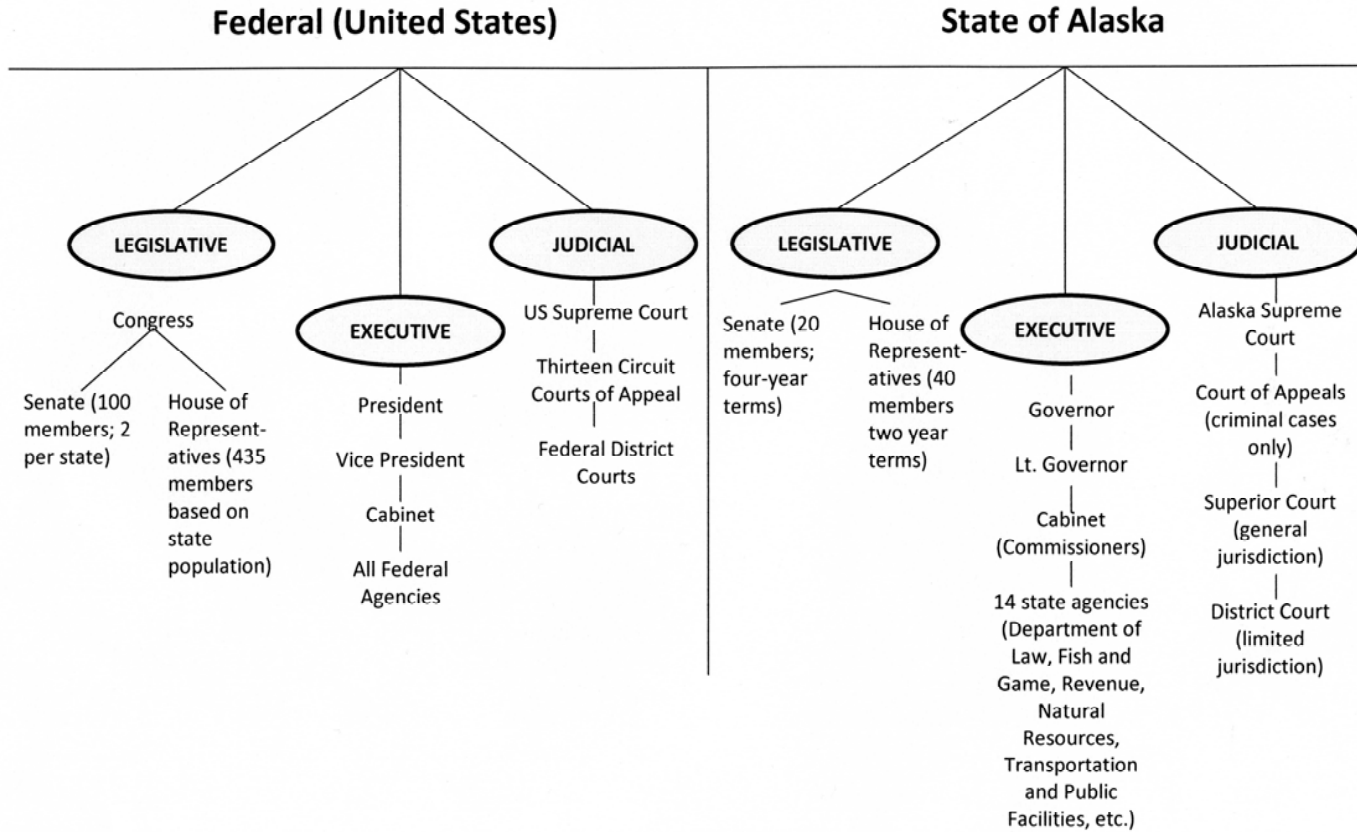
Monday, December 5, 2011
Lathrop High School
Fairbanks



Introduction to the Alaska Court System and the Appellate Process

THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Federal and State



Alaska Court System Organization

Alaska Supreme Court

The supreme court is the appellate court of final authority in Alaska. It consists of a panel of five justices.

Court Of Appeals

The court of appeals hears appeals in criminal and quasi-criminal cases (such as juvenile delinquency cases). It consists of a panel of three judges.

Administrative Office

The supreme court is charged with the responsibility of administering the statewide system. The supreme court delegates most of the administrative matters to the administrative director and her staff.

Superior Court

The superior court is the trial court of general jurisdiction. It has appellate jurisdiction over district court appeals and appeals from administrative agency decisions. There are 40 superior court judgeships.

District Court

The district court has limited civil and criminal jurisdiction. The district court consists of 21 district court judges, 53 authorized magistrate positions, and 8 committing magistrates (in Anchorage and Fairbanks).

APPELLATE COURTS

Alaska Supreme Court

Alaska Court of Appeals

TRIAL COURTS

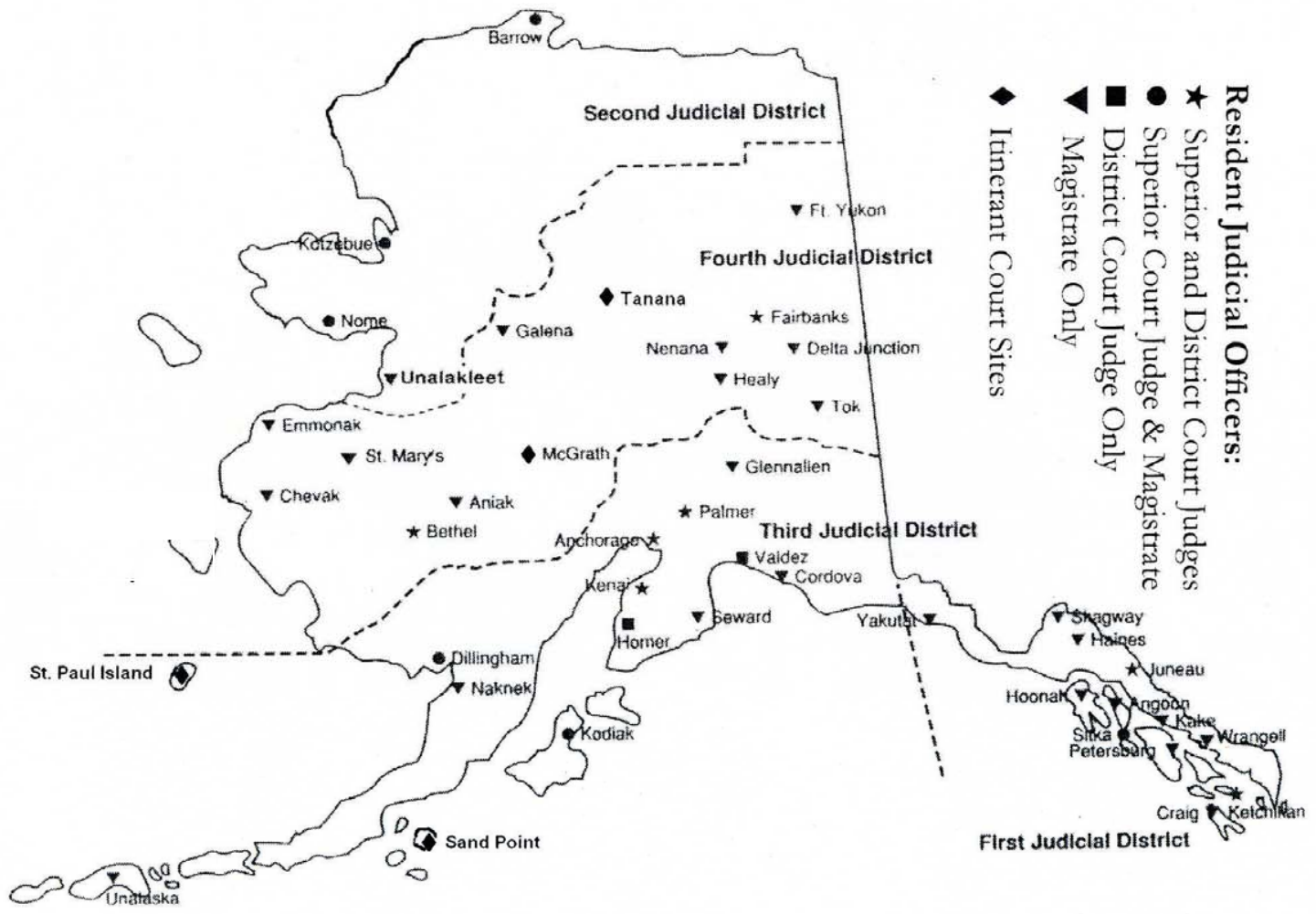
Alaska Superior Court

Alaska District Court

What is the difference between an **appellate court** and a **trial court**?

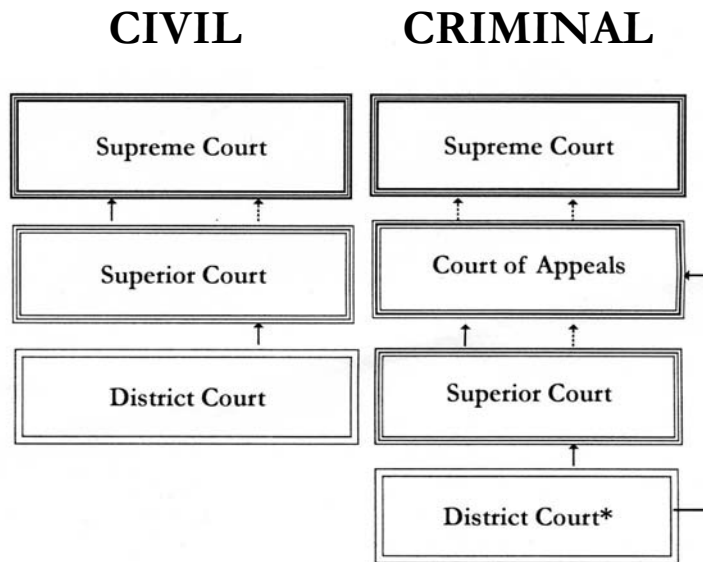
What do you see in a **trial** courtroom that you don't see in an **appellate** courtroom?

How many judges or justices sit on an **appellate** bench? On a **trial** bench?



Judicial Districts in Alaska. In what district is Fairbanks located?

THE PATH OF AN APPELLATE CASE



- **APPEALS AS OF RIGHT:**
Court required to accept appeal
- **DISCRETIONARY PETITIONS:**
Court may refuse to accept petition
- * **CHOICE OF APPEAL ROUTE**
Defendant may file direct appeal to superior court or court of appeals

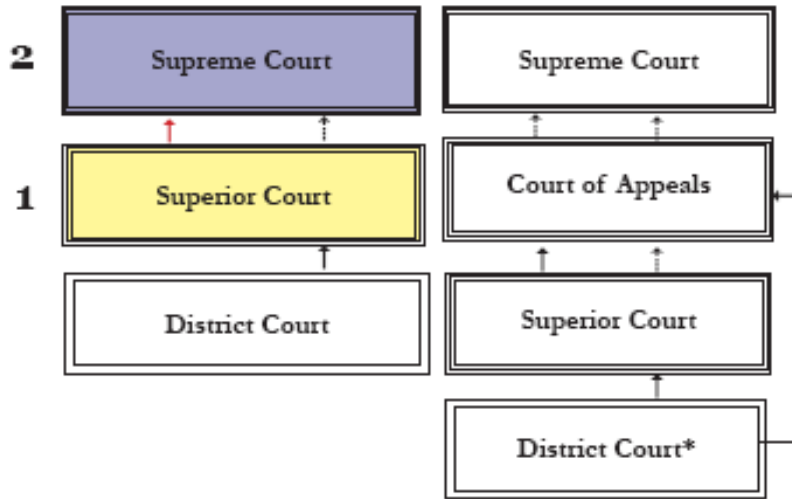
What is the difference between a **civil** and a **criminal** case?

What type of case is *Yi v. Yang*?

THE PATH OF AN APPELLATE CASE

CIVIL CASES

CRIMINAL CASES



- **APPEALS AS OF RIGHT:**
Court required to accept appeal
- > **DISCRETIONARY APPEALS:**
Court may refuse to accept appeal
- * **CHOICE OF APPEAL ROUTE**
Defendant may file direct appeal to superior court or court of appeals

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Alaska Supreme Court

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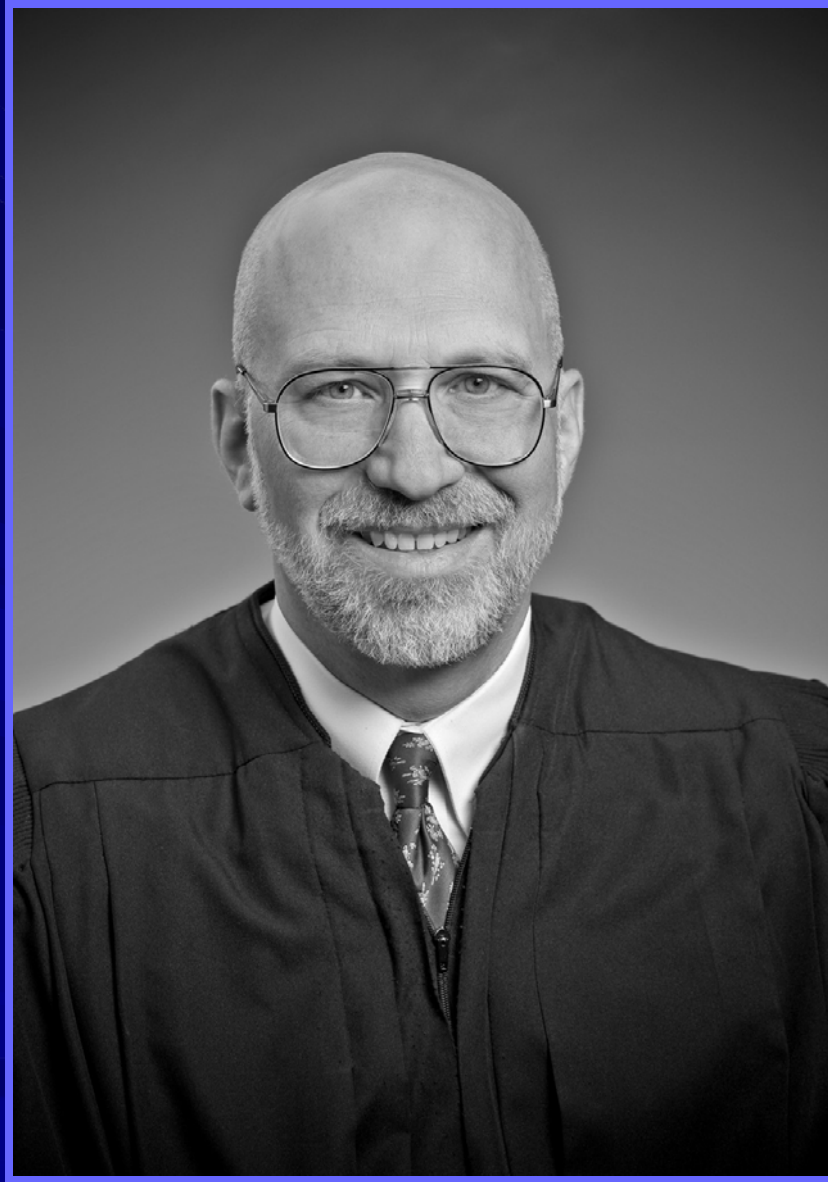


Judge Randy M. Olsen
Fairbanks Superior Court

Supreme Court LIVE--December 5, 2011
The Path of
Yong H. Yi v. Harris S. Yang, et al.
A Civil Case

Introducing the Alaska Supreme Court

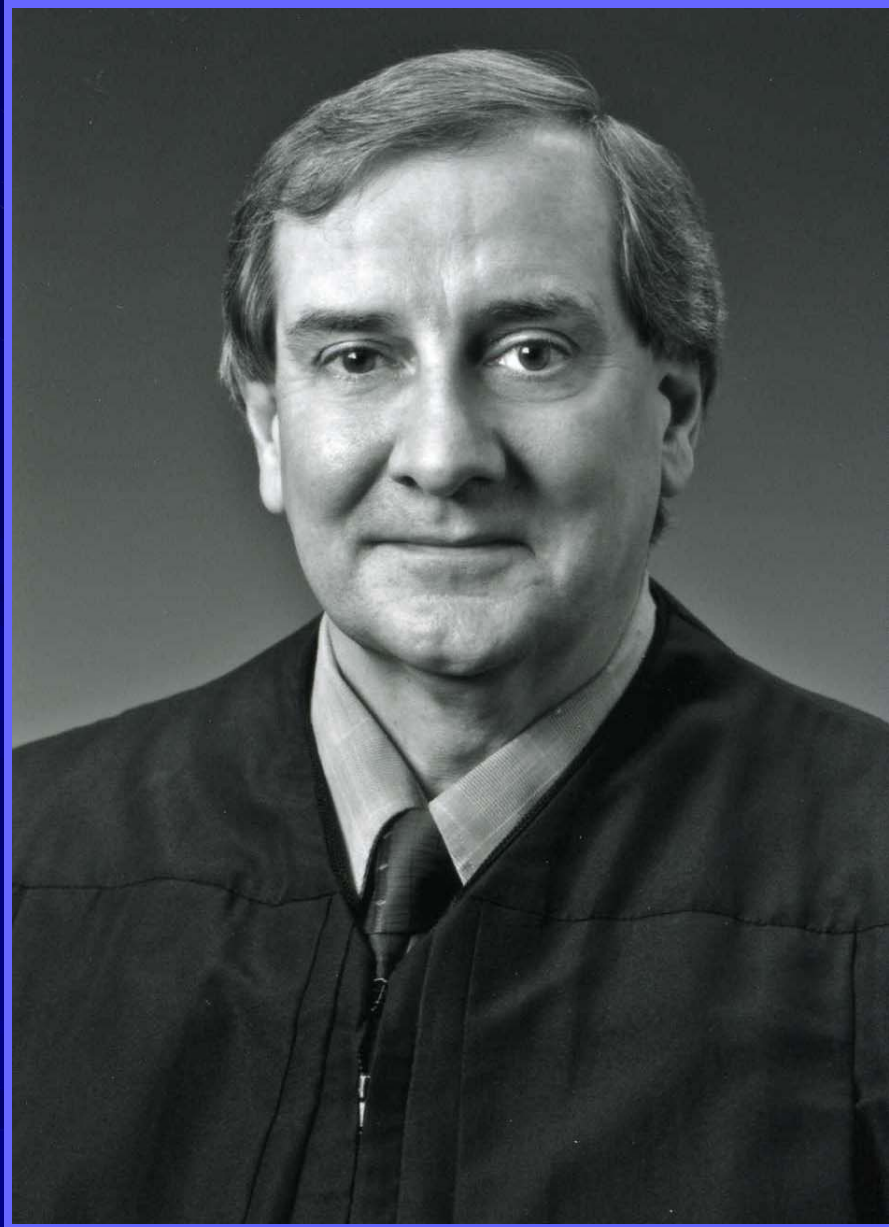




Chief Justice Walter L. Carpeneti



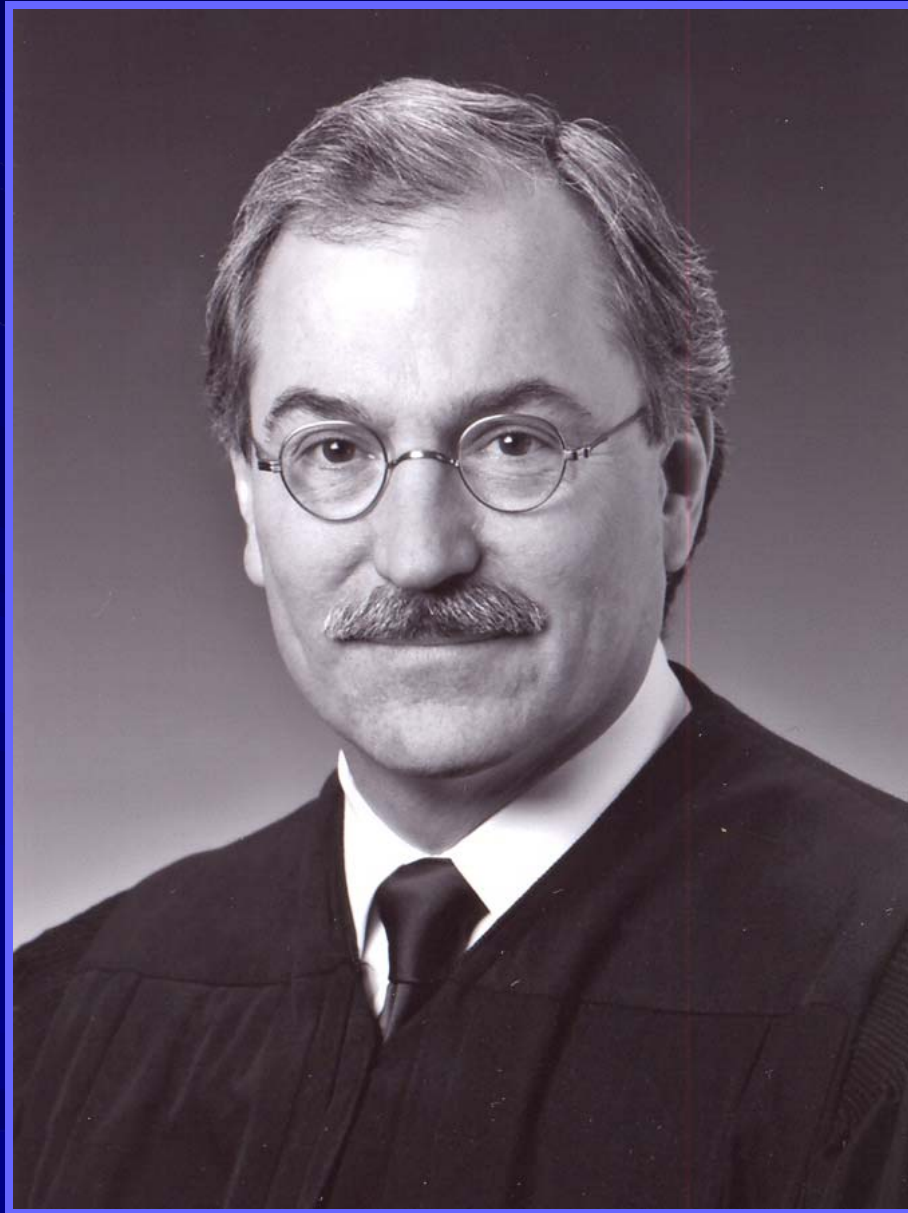
Justice Dana Fabe



Justice Daniel E. Winfree



Justice Morgan Christen



Justice Craig Stowers

A Supreme Court Appeal: The Process in a Nutshell

1. Notice of Appeal/Petition for Hearing
2. Brief of Appellant/Petitioner
3. Brief of Appellee/Respondent
4. Reply Brief of Appellant/Petitioner
5. Oral Argument: 20 Minutes Each
6. Court Deliberates
7. The Assigned Justice Prepares an Opinion
8. Dissenting or Concurring Justices
Write Separate Opinions
9. Final Opinions Issued, Distributed & Published

<http://www.courts.alaska.gov/appcts.htm#slips>

Supreme Court LIVE TRIVIA

1. When was the first courthouse built in Fairbanks?
Which judge sat on the Fairbanks bench at that time?
Was he a federal or state judge?
2. Who was the first Alaska Supreme Court justice to sit in Fairbanks? When was he appointed?
3. Who was the third Alaska Supreme Court justice to sit in Fairbanks? What Fairbanks building is named in his honor?
4. Which current justice of the Alaska Supreme Court graduated from Lathrop High School and played basketball for the Lathrop Malemites?



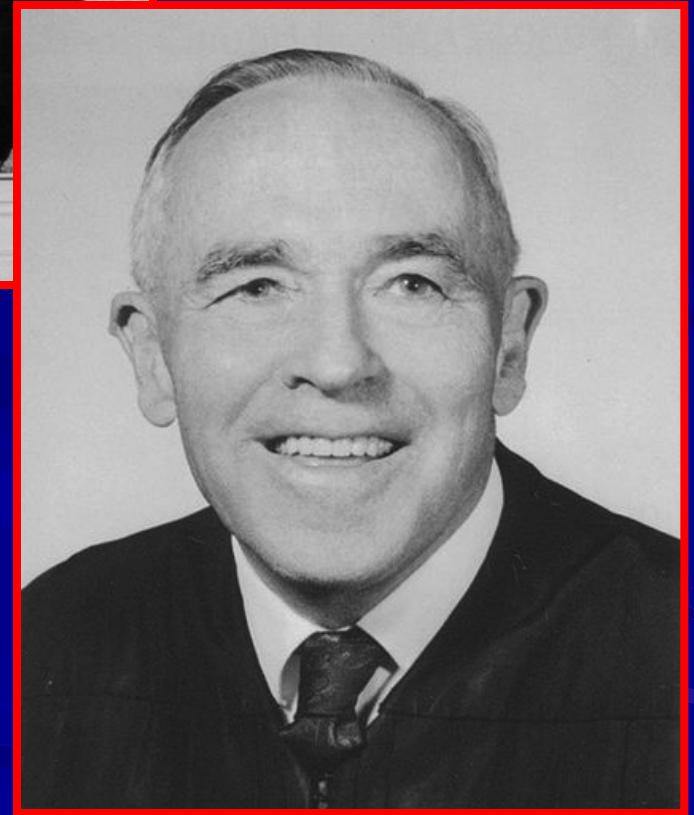
Dedication of the first Court House at
Fairbanks, Alaska, July 4th, 1904; Judge Wickersham
delivering the 4th of July address.

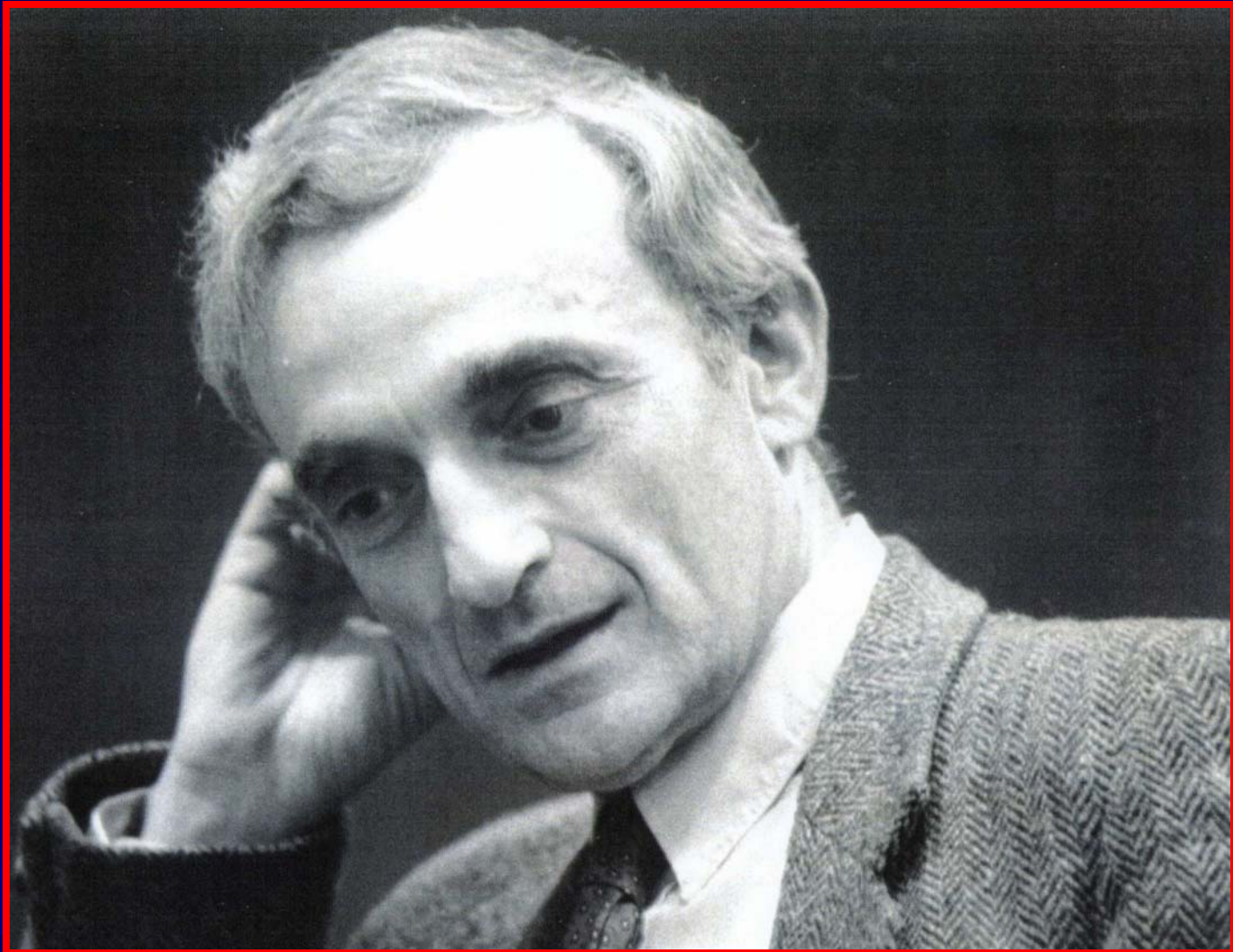
Alaska State Library - Historical Collections

Answer #1: 1904, Judge James Wickersham, U.S. District Court Judge (federal) for the Territory of Alaska.

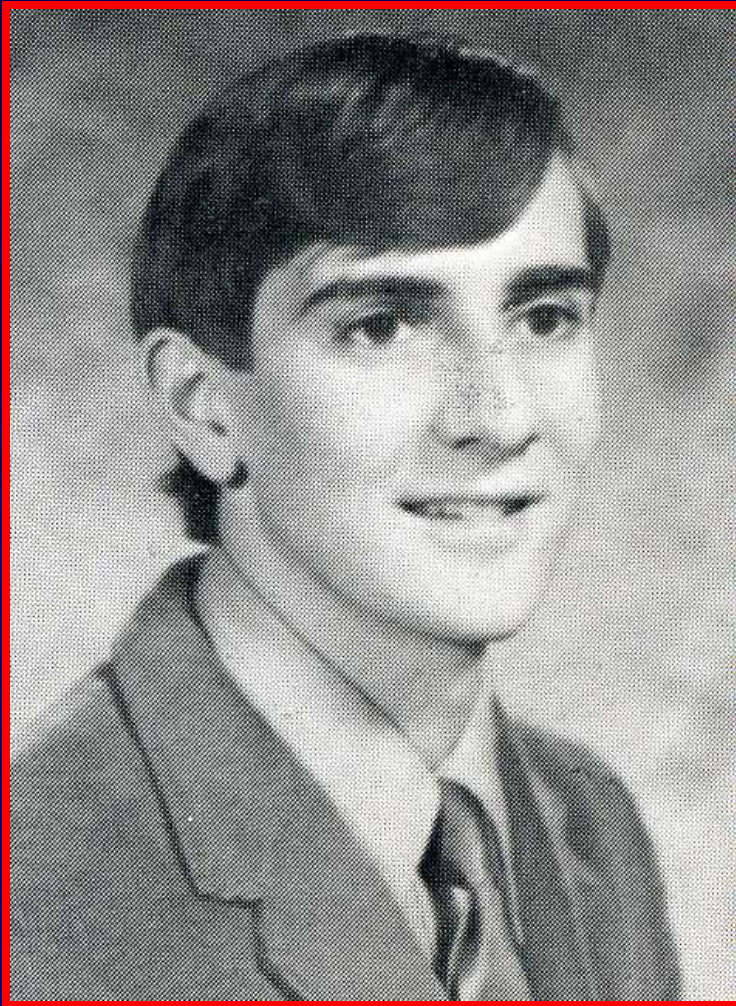


Answer #2: Justice Walter Hodge, L, was appointed at Statehood in 1959. With him in the front row are the two other members of the first Alaska Supreme Court, L-R: Chief Justice Buell Nesbett & Justice John Dimond. Standing behind the supreme court are the first eight judges of the Alaska Superior Court. Judge Harry Arend of Fairbanks is second from left. Arend was appointed to the Alaska Supreme Court in 1960 to replace Justice Hodge after Hodge joined the federal bench.

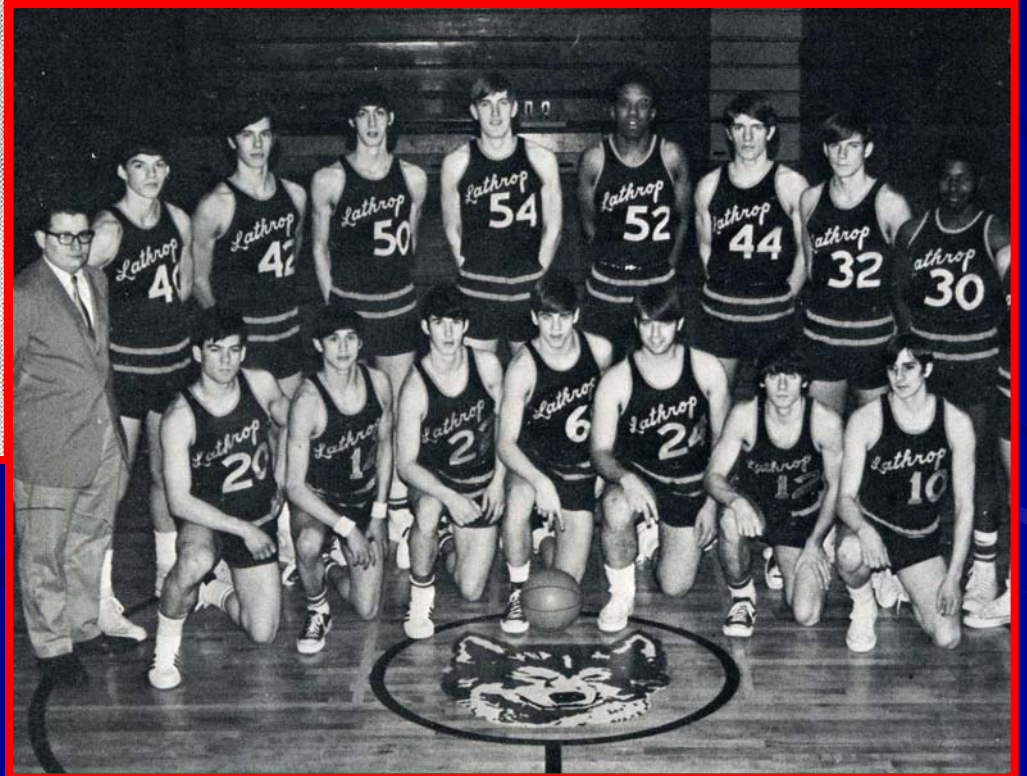




Answer #3: Justice Jay A. Rabinowitz. The Rabinowitz Courthouse downtown is named in his honor.



Answer #4: Justice Daniel Winfree,
Lathrop Class of 1971, Senior Class
President



Thank you!